

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5692
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1033

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CY, US
SUBJECT: GOC REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON CYPRUS

1. WE ARE REPORTING BY SEPTTEL GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT PRESS
REACTIONS (THE FORMER MISGUIDED AND ANGRY, THE LATTER MUTED) TO
PRESIDENT CARTER'S APRIL 15 REPORT TO CONGRESS ON CYPRUS.

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2. ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 16, FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES
TELEPHONED ME TO ASK THAT WE MEET MONDAY, APRIL 18, TO DISCUSS
VIENNA AND GROUNDS ON WHICH USG BASED ITS CONCLUSION THAT THERE
HAD BEEN NEGOTIATING PROGRESS. I TOLD CHRISTOPHIDES I THOUGHT
GOC WAS OVER-REACTING AND SHOULD DEFER JUDGMENT UNTIL IT HAD
THE FULL TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT, NOT JUST WIRE SERVICE
SUMMARIES. WE TRADED VIEWS ON VIENNA WITH MY DRAWING ON

STATE 083772, BUT CHRISTOPHIDES REMAINED VERY STIFF.

3. I SAW CHRISTOPHIDES AS SCHEDULED APRIL 18. BY THAT TIME HE HAD READ THE COMPLETE TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND VERY MUCH CHANGED HIS TUNE. HE SAID THE REPORT OBJECTIVELY AND ACCURATELY DEPICTED THE SITUATION. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT GOC APPROVED THE REPORT AND WAS ACTING WITH THE PRESS TO TRY TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE DONE BY INITIAL, OUT-OF-CONTEXT REPORTS AND RESULTANT VERY HOSTILE TREATMENT IN THE WEEKEND PAPERS. IN CONNECTION WITH GOC'S EFFORT TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, CHRISTOPHIDES DREW MY ATTENTION TO FACT THAT NEGOTIATOR PAPADOPOULOS HAD SPOKEN FAVORABLY TO THE PRESS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH DE CUELLAR EARLIER IN THE MORNING. CHRISSTOPHIDES SAID GOC SPOKESMAN WOULD BE TAKING SIMILAR LINE.

4. CHRISTOPHIDES RAISED THE PROSPECTS FOR THE RESUMED NEGOTIATION IN NICOSIA IN MID-MAY. HE SAID GOC IS HOPEFUL THAT USG WILL INVOLVE ITSELF WITH TURKEY IN AN EFFORT TO INDUCE GREATER TURKISH RESPONSIVENESS ON TERRITORY; TERRITORY AND CONSTITUTION SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN EQUAL WEIGHT; GOC WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER ITS AGREEMENT TO A FURTHER VIENNA IF TURKS REMAIN AS STERILE IN THE NICOSIA NEGOTIATION AS THEY HAD BEEN IN VIENNA. CHRISTOPHIDES STATED HE FELT WE OUGHT TO KNOW THERE ARE TWO SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT IN GOC ABOUT US INVOLVEMENT: ONE, THAT VIENNA HAD ALREADY SHOWN THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF US ROLE; TWO, THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO MAKE SUCH A JUDGMENT. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID HE BELONGED TO THE SECOND SCHOOL (IMPLYING THAT PAPADOPOULOS WAS OF THE FIRST OPINION).

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5. IN A LONG FOLLOWING DISCUSSION I SAID INTER ALIA THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, MR. CLIFFORD AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE INTENDED THAT THE USG SHOULD REMAIN ACTIVE IN HELPING THE CYPRUS PARTIES TO REACH A SOLUTION. A RETURN TO THE AREA BY CLIFFORD WAS NOT TO BE PRECLUDED BUT PROBABLY NOT BEFORE THE TURKISH ELECTIONS. AS A RESULT OF VIENNA, TERRITORY AND CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES HAD BEEN INEXTRICABLY LINKED. WE WERE NOT SHUNTING ASIDE THE FORMER IN FAVOR OF THE LATTER AS AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU HAD SEEMED TO FEAR IN DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPT BUT REALISTICALLY IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ENVISAGE MUCH MORE ON TERRITORY FROM TURKEY IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN. WITHOUT IGNORING TERRITORY WE HAD FELT FROM VIENNA THAT THERE WERE MANY AREAS IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION WHICH NEEDED MORE DETAILED EXPLORATION, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE TURKS HAD NOT EXPRESSED THEIR POINT OF VIEW AS ARTICULATELY IN NEGOTIATING SESSIONS AS THEY HAD IN PRIVATE.

6. CONCLUDING, I SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT BE LOOKING AT VIENNA

THROUGH DIFFERENT LENSES. THOSE WHO HAD REPRESENTED GOC THERE WERE PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLY DISCOURAGED BY THE SIZE OF THE GAP ON PRINCIPAL ISSUES WHICH HAD BEEN MADE PLAIN. WITH A DIFFERENT LENS, WE FELT SOME DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE PERFORMANCES OF BOTH PARTIES (THE GREEK PENCHANT FOR PRESS LEAKS, FOR INSTANCE), BUT WERE NOT DISCOURAGED. WE CHOSE NOT TO PLAY "WHO STRUCK JOHN". WE PREFERRED TO LOOK AT THE FACT THAT BOTH PARTIES HAD SUBMITTED PROPOSALS, EACH HAD GOTTEN A GENERAL VIEW OF THE OTHER'S POSITIONS, PROCEDURE HAD FOR THE FIRST TIME NOT BEEN AN ISSUE. IN SHORT, A BEGINNING HAD BEEN MADE. WE WERE GRATIFIED THAT THE CLIFFORD MISSION HAD PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THIS OUTCOME, AND THE US LOOKED FORWARD TO CONTINUING THAT ROLE.

7. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID THE US POINT OF VIEW WAS CANDID, SENSIBLE AND WELCOME. HE SUGGESTED THAT I SEE PAPADOPOULOS IN THE SAME VEIN. I SAID I HAD ALREADY REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT
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WITH PAPADOPOULOS BOTH FOR GENERAL REASONS AND SPECIFICALLY TO GET FROM HIM HIS TEAM'S MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4 NEGOTIATING SESSION WHICH BORE ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE TURKS HAD (AS THE UN FELT) OR HAD NOT (AS GOC WAS ASSERTING) COMMENTED "SUBSTANTIVELY AND MEANINGFULLY" ON GREEK TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL.
CRAWFORD

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